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Letter dated 27 December 2008 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The world community is yet again witnessing, in outrage and pain, the horrendous terrorist acts of the Israeli regime against the innocent Palestinian people in the Gaza strip. The world is again shocked to see that this irresponsible and criminal regime, after having starved a whole population, is now using its pre-planned and wicked ploy in slaughtering them. We had repeatedly stressed that the Israeli regime knows no boundaries in its brutal terrorist acts and criminal policies and practices, and the said regime's massacring of hundreds of defenseless Palestinians in the Gaza Strip today serves as another example of this outrageous fact. Hundreds of people have been killed, many of them children on their way home from school; the rest were innocent men and women either trying to remain alive under an unprecedented, malicious humanitarian crisis imposed on them by the Israeli regime, or running out of their homes to save their children from the Israeli savagery.

All these crimes, which are among the most horrendous ever committed in the history of mankind, are happening while some of those with permanent seats on the Security Council have even fallen short of calling on the Israeli regime to stop its crimes against humanity. The same powers, by incapacitating the Council from taking any action against Israeli crimes in the past, undoubtedly share responsibility in this new round of Israeli crimes against humanity. The Council's inaction against the Israeli brutalities in the past has emboldened the said regime in its atrocities and crimes against the Palestinian people.

For so many months, more than 1.5 million people in the Gaza Strip have been starved and deliberately kept deprived, by the Israeli regime, of the most basic services and goods that they need for survival, and now they are being eliminated before the eyes of the international community while the Security Council has remained idle and practically indifferent.

We urge the Security Council to take urgent and meaningful action in order to force the Israeli regime to stop its atrocities and war crimes against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and to help alleviate their suffering and pain. Inaction is not an option. Business as usual, whereby the Council has been prevented from taking any action to counter the Israeli crimes and put to work only when and where the interests of a few powers require, should be ended. The Israeli regime is making a mockery of the whole international community and of the Security Council. The

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Council needs to act to put an end to this Israeli impunity and to these atrocious crimes.

I would be grateful if you could bring the present letter to the attention of the Security Council members and circulate it as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Eshagh **Al Habib**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.